

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. When Dr. Karl Lugmayer, OeVP Deputy to the Upper House (Bundesrat) was visiting in Moscow in early November 1953, the Austrian Ambassador Norbert Bischoff told him that he had indications that the Soviets were willing to release approximately 1000 more Austrian prisoners. Bischoff stated that he was conducting negotiations with Soviet officials on the prisoner issue and asked Lugmayer to initiate parallel discussions in Vienna. He also requested Lugmayer to use his influence to forestall provocative anti-Soviet statements on the prisoner issue which might jeopardize the current talks.
2. Since his return to Vienna on 13 November, Lugmayer has been trying to arrange a meeting between Chancellor Julius Raab and Soviet High Commissioner Ivan Ilyichev to discuss the prisoner problem. It is planned that the Austrian Foreign Minister and Lugmayer will attend the meeting which is expected to take place soon after Leopold Figl has assumed his post as Foreign Minister.

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